ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical object identification apparatus has a light emitting-side optical system (23), a light receiving-side optical system (26), and a signal processing section (29). The light emitting-side optical system (23) irradiates light from a light emitting device (21) via an objective lens (22) to a moving target object (27) such as printing paper sheets. The light receiving-side optical system (26) receives reflected light from the target object by means of the light receiving device (25) via an objective lens (24), and outputs an output signal with a waveform corresponding to the surface projections and depressions of the target object (27). The signal processing section (29) executes signal processing on the output signal by at least one signal processing method to identify the target object.